# SECOND CHANCE LUNA

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William gave no thought to his hosts or breakfast as he led his mate to a quiet corner. Sitting down, he pulled her into his lap, unable to

stand the least bit of distance. She trembled like a leaf as he buried his nose into the nape of her neck, breathing in her rich, earthy scent.

~ His mouth was watering and he was eager to feast on her ~

She softly moaned as his hand caressed her thigh and he nibbled at her ear. Over the years, he had several partners and thought Jason's

insistence on saving himself for his mate was naive and unnecessary, but now he finally understood and he regretted all the time he wasted

on other she-wolves

Despite his concerns, no she-wolf had ever stirred him like she did

Her scent consumed him. His skin tingled as if with an electrical current

William's mind was buzzing and his only clear thought was how it would feel to be inside her

His hand slid between her thighs, seeking his ultimate goal. Her scent became richer as her arousal suddenly spiked. With a whimper, she

pushed away overwhelmed, earning a soft grow! from him

"W-wait," she gasped, trying to regain some control over her body

"What is it, baby?" William spoke in a husky whisper, trying to catch

## Chapter 41 his own breath

"I—I don't even know you," she stuttered though her wolf grumbled, wanting his mouth on them again

William chuckled. Perhaps he did get rather carried away, "Will, I'm the Alpha of Winter Moon."

"You're an alpha?" she bit her lip. "And you're not disappointed in me?

"Why would I be disappointed?" William scoffed. "You are beautiful

Tell me your name."

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"Hmm," William pulled her close, nuzzling her. "Beautiful. So beautiful. My beautiful Lily. Shall we go somewhere more private?"

"Where?" Lily nervously glanced around them. This was her first visit to Blue Moon and she had no idea just what kind of facilities it

possessed

"My room?"

Lily hesitated even as he nibbled on her again. He seemed insatiable and obsessed with her neck. She had never been very feminine and

never garnered the attention of others. Making it even more difficult was the fact she was so much taller than most other wolves. Her only

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hope had been her fated mate, but those hopes were crushed after he rejected her without a second thought

Lily never dreamed of a second chance mate. Her wolf barely functioned weeks afterward and she drowned herself in her work. Work was

safe. She spent days in the lab, refusing to even look at the sun

Gradually, her wolf returned, but it was a shell of its former self and she renewed her dedication to research

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She knew she was worrying her brother, but she couldn't help it, especially as she continued to feel her mate's betrayal nearly every night

Why though? He had broken their bond, yet she endured the pain night after night and sometimes during the day. Finally, her brother

realized what was happening and sent her mate away. Distance helped dull the lingering ache and gradually it faded, but she still refused to

leave her lab

All she knew was work until the invitation to Blue Moon's Luna Ceremony. Chloe was too far along in her pregnancy, so the burden of

attending fell on her as her brother's sibling. Lily knew it was a ploy to get her out of the lab, but she didn't have it in her to fight, even

knowing how worthless it was. But she didn't expect this

Was this all right? Lily gasped as he hungrily devoured her, focusing on the spot where her neck and shoulder met, sending jolts through

her body and awakening sensations she thought long dead. Her wolf wiggled in pleasure, almost comatose, yet also whimpering for more.

Lily was rapidly losing her self-control

William's hand slid toward her core again and she gasped as he rubbed her through her trousers, stoking a fire she didn't know could even

be lit. He growled approval, nipping her skin

"Let's get out of here, baby," he whispered

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"okay."

With a groan, he managed to stand. Threading his fingers through hers, he tugged her after him. Leaving the curious and bemused gazes of

the crowd, they headed upstairs

William couldn't contain himself. The moment she agreed, he practically flew up the stairs. Lily had never visited this pack before, but she

knew they didn't flaunt their wealth and prestige. Yet, the deep colors

Chapter 41 and rich fabrics gave the packhouse and the room William brought her had a stately feel

He paused at the door as if suddenly remembering something, but a few sniffs had him relaxing again. Turning back to her, he gently

ushered her inside before closing the door. He had a queer, almost sheepish grin, as

if caught doing something wrong. Lily looked at him with some confusion

She sniffed the room, but couldn't detect anything strange. If anything, it lacked discernible scents as if recently cleaned

"Sorry," he cleared his throat, "now where were we?"

William pulled her close, pressing their bodies together. She was almost a half foot taller, but he didn't seem at all daunted by their height

difference. His eyes gleamed with anticipation

"Where would you like to start?"

"1-1 don't know...I've never.."

He growled. It rumbled in his chest like a purr. The sound traveled through her like a current. Goosebumps trailed up her limbs, but her legs

felt like jelly. Her wolf was again rolling on its back

"Then we'll take it slow," William whispered, drawing her close for a kiss

Her entire body convulsed with pent-up need, things she thought she didn't possess, things she thought she buried. He lifted the edge of

her blouse and slowly peeled it away. His touch sent shocks through her entire body, but it all seemed to pool in her core. For the first time,

she felt like her entire body was alive, electric

His mouth found her breasts. She always thought they were too small, but he didn't seem to mind at all as he teased them, swirling his

tongue around them and nipping them with his teeth until her n\*\*\*\*s were erect and her mind completely undone. Lily didn't even realize

he removed her

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slacks until she felt his fingers dive between her legs and tease her entrance

"Oh! Ah!" Lily convulsed, falling into him

William groaned approval and half carried her to the bed. Lily lay panting, but he wasn't giving her a moment to rest as his fingers continued to play with her. She moaned and convulsed again. Waves of pleasure ricocheted through her. Was this an orgasm?

"Did you like that?" William muttered. "Does my Luna want more?

"I'm not...y-yes please. More."

A growl tore through him when she tried to deny her place at his side, but he relaxed at her assent. He wanted her, wanted every part of her,

but his wolf was nagging him. Something was off. Her wolf was too silent, afraid to connect with him. They had to go slow, coax them both

to accept their connection. That was fine. If Jason could romance his mate, then so could he

He moved lower, savoring every inch of her skin, noting the prominence of her ribs. She wasn't just tall and thin, she was underweight

His wolf whimpered at her poor condition, but that was fine. They would take care of that soon enough. Reaching his goal, he took his prize

eagerly in his mouth, sucking on her nub and sending her into pure ecstasy

Never before had such a sound given him such a rush. The smell of her arousal was warm and sweet like honey. It made his mouth water. He

was practically bursting, but his wolf was right. He had to go slow and would love every minute

Lily whimpered, trying to catch her breath. Her body shivered uncontrollably as aftershocks from her orgasm slowly dissipated. She was

happy for a moment to collect her thoughts. Her wolf too seemed to be

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trying to recover. It stretched happily and slightly disappointed it was over

Lily shifted, looking for William to see him standing in front of her staring at her with a gaze burning with desire as he pulled off his shirt

before undoing his belt. Letting his pants drop to the floor, he continued to stare at her. She blushed as her gaze settled on his engorged

member already shining with its precum and she realized they weren't finished at all. They were just getting started

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Phoebe emerged from the kitchen, her aura once again under control and her eyes their usual gray color. Mani retreated, laughing with glee

at finally exercising their full aura and command. Phoebe shivered at the aura they had exuded. It was almost frightening, but she had been

just as upset by the she-wolf's constant interference. She would not let anyone disturb William and Lily's bond until it was firmly established

Lily had already suffered one rejection and if she was anything like Phoebe she would fear and expect another. Who would want a wolf that

was rejected by their fated mate? That insecurity almost ruined Phoebe's second chance and she wouldn't allow someone to prey on Lily's

insecurities and ruin hers. She had a feeling it wouldn't be long at all before the bond between Lily and William was unbreakable

"Luna."

She tumed to see Ben. Giving him a questioning look, she waited for him to continue. He seemed embarrassed by his actions the previous

night, but she found it rather endearing. She recalled many nights singing with her father while her mother played his favorite eighties hits

"The alpha meeting will be starting in a couple of hours and I've been reminding everyone, but I can't seem to find Alpha William."

Phoebe's gaze slid toward the corner William and Lily had occupied, but it was empty. It hadn't been long since she took Camilla aside and

Mani wiggled with amusement. Phoebe blushed lightly. She had a feeling she knew where they had gone. A brief link to Gloria confirmed

their retreat as well as assurances that his room had been prepared, so nothing should disturb the eager pair

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Clearing her throat, Phoebe turned her attention back to the waiting Gamma, saying, "Alpha William just met his mate, so I think he's a

little..

occupied at the moment."

Ben's gaze widened in surprise, but Phoebe held in her chuckle

"Unless there is something urgent about today's meeting, I think it's

best to leave him for now. He can be informed later."

"Of course, Luna," Ben bowed, fighting a smile. It was unlikely they would see the alpha until dinner, if not breakfast, the next morning

Sharing his thoughts, Phoebe mindlinked the cooks, "Myra, in about an hour orso could you send up breakfast to Alpha William's suite. Just

knock and leave it outside the door." "Of course, Luna."

satisfied, Phoebe sat back down as Blake and Emma ate their breakfast. Gradually, the alphas separated themselves into groups to discuss

pack activities and recent rogue attacks. There were also some rumors concerned as to why Blood Moon chose not to attend, though

considering Katrina's past actions it was not all that surprising. Some left to speak in private prior to the meeting, leaving their Lunas and a

few children behind. Phoebe sighed, looking over her remaining guests. Quite a few already knew each other, making Phoebe the odd one

out

They had been welcoming the previous night, but she also sensed unrest with them as she was new and very little was known about her

Well, she supposed they knew she could play piano. But that didn't tell them if she would be a good ally or not. Jason was a strong alpha

and well-known. Somehow, she had to show she was his equal, but how was she supposed to instill that kind of confidence? She was only

just

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"Becky, where are you going?" a Luna asked as her daughter

Chapter 42 stood

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"Iwas going up to my room. It's not like there is anything else to do."

Phoebe grimaced at the young blonde's attitude. She supposed hanging around with older women would be rather boring. Rimrock never

hosted any large events, so she wasn't certain how other packs handled such a situation with so many important guests

"Well, you never know, Luna Phoebe might have something planned," the Luna tried to console her daughter

"Like what? A book club? A dance marathon?"

"A pool party," Phoebe said, letting her voice carry over the murmuring crowd

Neither Luna nor her daughter had made any effort to keep their voices low, so Phoebe felt no need to make an effort to ignore them. If

they wanted to cause a scene she was happy to let them. They certainly wouldn't rattle her

"Of course, if you haven't brought a swimsuit, I understand if you want to skip it," Phoebe added. "It's such a nice day it doesn't make

much sense to spend it indoors. I thought a lunch on the patio with cocktails would be nice for everyone."

"Mommy, can we go swimming now?" Emma bounced in her seat

"Absolutely. Let's go change."

The other Lunas seemed surprised by her dismissal. Phoebe wanted to make friends, but she wasn't about to pander to them. Mani wagged

her tail in approval. They didn't need to play nice with these she-wolves. If anything, these wolves needed to learn to play nice with them

Changing into swimsuits, Phoebe took the pups outside. Not unlike

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Rimrock, Blue Moon had a large pool surrounded by a wide patio. During her welcome party they hadn't used it, but Blake and Emma were

naturally curious about it, especially after Norah assured them they were welcome to swim in it as long as someone was watching over

them. Not wanting the pups to be bored, Phoebe invited the daycare to bring the other pups

When they reached the pool, several pups, as well as their daily caretakers, were already there. Phoebe slipped into the water, hanging out

in the shallows as Blake and Emma splashed with the other young pups

She accepted a two-year-old from one of the other she-wolves and held it as the pup giggled and splashed

Norah and Lucille joined her shortly after. The latter smirked, "You realize you are the talk of the day."

"Is that so?" Phoebe seated herself on the submerged steps, cuddling the little pup. "So what are they saying about me?"

"Mostly how they can't figure you out," Lucille sat on the edge of the pool and dangled her legs in the water. "They don't know how a Luna

could play piano and sing or why you and Jason would adopt pups before having your own. And they definitely don't know what to think

about a Luna that hangs out at the pool playing with pups."

"If knew it was going to be that easy to throw them I wouldn't have tried so hard," Phoebe chuckled

Lucille laughed and even the daycare she-wolves smiled. They would be the first to admit their Luna was not ordinary, but the more they

learned about her, the more they wondered why others were not like her

"Oh my," they looked up to see a she-wolf approach, clutching a towel. "You weren't kidding."

Phoebe smiled, "I never do. And you are?"

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"Koko," the Luna introduced herself. "I'm from the Peace River

Chapter 42 Pack."

Unlike most of the wolves Phoebe met, Koko was not typical in physique or temperament. Her long, straight hair was black rather than

brown or blonde and she had a much darker complexion. She was tall, taller than Phoebe, but her clothes were simple in comparison to the

others who tended to wear name-brands as a sign of their pack's prosperity

"Hello Koko. Come and join us," Phoebe encouraged. "The water's fine."

Koko hesitated before pulling off her tank top to reveal a black bikini

She shed her jeans next before stepping into the water to join her on the submerged steps

"This is Billy," Phoebe introduced the pup in her lap

"An orphan?"

"No. His father is one of our top warriors."

"Can ask you a question?"

"Of course."

«, Playing piano. Why did you learn that?"

"My mother played and she taught me."

"But what purpose does it serve?"

Phoebe shrugged, "Does every skill need a purpose? My mother was the head of the pack's kitchen in my former pack and my father was

one of their groundskeepers. She taught me to cook. He taught me about plants

Neither of those skills will serve me much as a Luna, but I still enjoy them."

Koko was silent thinking

"Because I know how to cook, I know the effort that goes into making

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meals for so many, so when I thank our kitchen staff for their efforts, they know I'm being sincere," Phoebe continued. "I don't know how to

make medicine, but I do know how difficult it is to find and collect certain herbs, so I recognize the efforts of our medical staff to keep

everything in stock. Twon't win any awards for playing piano, but it brings joy to others, including myself."

Koko chewed her lip before saying, "I actually play guitar."

"You two should play a duet tonight!" Lucille chirped

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"Well, I've never played for anyone but my grandfather. He's the one who taught me," Koko said, blushing

"All the more reason to show it off," Lucille encouraged. She was for anything that would continue to confound the other Lunas. "I'm sure

we could find a guitar."

"PII think about it," Koko said, unused to anyone taking an interest in her talents. Most only cared about her combat skills and negotiating

abilities

"So tell me about your pack," Phoebe prompted

"Well, we specialize in growing herbs..."

They chatted comfortably and eventually other Lunas and their children made their way out. The younger wolves immediately took to the

water, joining the older pups from Blue Moon. The Lunas were more reluctant, not sure what to do in such a casual atmosphere. Usually,

they kept visiting Lunas busy with a carefully scheduled itinerary

There was always an unspoken competition between them to dominate the room. Unlike alphas, who had a clear rank due to the strength of

their auras, luna rank was more subtle and not always clearly defined. That was why gathering allies and creating the biggest following was

vitally important. But Phoebe defied expectations

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Last night, she was a welcoming hostess, but there was also something distant about her as if she expected them to fall in line behind her.

What made the feeling even more difficult to ignore was how their inner wolves reacted: lowering their heads and tails in submission or

completely rolling belly up whenever she was near

Then Phoebe had taken to the piano, playing with unbelievable skill all to entertain the pups. And when the Gamma made a fool of himself

she joined him with her beautiful voice softening his. It was clear the Blue Moon pack was infatuated with their Luna, as was their Alpha.

Ostracizing Phoebe was out of the question. They couldn't risk insulting Blue Moon nor could they risk falling out of favor with Jason

It was unlikely any of the Blue Moon pack would act as an insider for them to gain leverage over Phoebe either. Plenty of rumors swirled

around her, about her rejection, adopting orphan pups and being wolfless. Yet, the confrontation with Camilla proved Phoebe bore no

shame about any of those rumors

Despite being rejected once, she held her head high and proud. When it came to the pups, it was clear she loved them as her own. What

was more, Jason also treated them as his own. The pups even called him daddy. She hadn't given an answer to the claim she was wolfless,

but she showed no sign there would be any sort of hindrance when it was time for the moonlit run. Was that rumor wrong?

Now Phoebe was in the pool with the other she-wolves in charge of minding the pups. She held a two-year-old in her lap as if she were its

mother, laughing and chatting with wolves far below her standing. Yet, she treated them as equals. The idea seemed laughable to the other

Lunas, who thought the only way to handle their pack was to be aloof and dominant. Lower and higher ranks simply didn't mix

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And yet they saw not just Phoebe, but also Lucille and former Luna Norah all relaxing with the other she-wolves in the pool. Not only that,

but another Luna had already joined them. Koko was considered a lower ranked Luna because her pack was small: barely three hundred

#### members

She had no strong allies since her pack did not have any valuable resources to trade

But Phoebe didn't seem to care as she chatted easily with the other

Koko seemed perfectly at ease as well. The other lunas were almost ready to suspect the pair knew each other before the meeting, but that

was impossible since Phoebe had been unranked prior to mating with Jason

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## Chapter Forty-Three

"Have a seat," Jason nodded as he grabbed a folder from his desk

Reed stepped into the office wildly apprehensive and he was surprised to see they were not alone. Seated in a chair Elder Ansel benignly

smiled as he sipped his coffee

"I hope you don't mind," Jason said. "1 asked Elder Ansel here so that he could answer any questions you have."

Reed nodded to their elder. Now he was confused and intrigued. It wasn't all that unusual for the Wolf Council to send a representative to a

Luna Ceremony especially when it involved one of the larger packs but they weren't generally needed for an alpha meeting and certainly

not an informal meeting between two alphas. He watched Jason curiously as he joined them

"Coffee?"

"No thank you," Reed shook his head

"Very well. Please take a look at this," Jason handed him the file and sat quietly as he looked it over

Opening it Reed quickly read through it. His pack specialized in medicine so he easily identified the results of a medical trial: healing rate

increase fifty percent, scar formation decreased sixty percent, and such

Flipping over the first sheet he found a series of photographs depicting a young she-wolf with four deep lacerations across her cheek. There

were five pictures total showing the healing of the wounds until the final picture where she was fully healed. There were no scars and one

would find it difficult to believe she had been wounded at all. What was even more

Chapter Forty-Three remarkable was that the duration between pictures was only twenty-four hours

"And what am I looking at?" Reed finally asked

"Two weeks ago my pack applied for a patent for a new healing balm," Jason explained. "That is the result of our study as well as the

Council's preliminary study. The pictures are of a she-wolf in this very pack who was wounded and received treatment with the balm. It is

designed to heal wounds inflicted by silver."

Reed had been ready to shrug off the results until Jason delivered the final sentence. His eyes went wide with shock though Jason remained

calm. Reed's gaze flickered to the elder

"I can confirm everything Alpha Jason said is true," Ansel nodded

"But..how?"

"I'm afraid I don't have the knowledge or expertise to even begin to explaining the medicine or the process to make it," Jason admitted.

"Youd have to ask Phoebe for more details."

"Why would..you mean..."

Jason nodded with a smile, "Phoebe and her good friend created it...

in her kitchen no less using herbs from her garden. Her friend is a nurse."

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"But she only recently arrived here," Reed said, "which means this was developed elsewhere, in her former pack, shouldnt the patent

belong to them?"

"If the Luna and her friend used any of their pack's facilities, then yes," Ansel agreed. "Since it was created in her private home without

relying on pack supplies we determined it should belong to the she-wolves who created it giving their current pack full rights to a patent."

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"But still...the other she-wolf is a nurse so..."

"She's also here," Jason said. "One of my warriors is her mate so she naturally came with us."

Reed sucked in a breath slowly processing everything he had been told. Two she-wolves, working independently, had managed to create a

medicine to heal silver wounds a feat hundreds had tried and failed to do

It sounded like a fairytale but with the elder present he had to conclude it was the truth. One of those she-wolves was the destined Luna of

one of the largest, most influential packs in the entire world

"Why would they ever attempt such an enterprise?" Reed wondered out loud

"I don't suppose there is any harm in revealing details," Jason replied

"The Luna of their former pack liked to paint her nails with silver. She also liked to turn her claws on pack members if she was displeased."

Reed stiffened. Silver was deadly to werewolves which made it an effective ploy against rogues. She-wolves were generally weaker than

males, but also faster. A quick strike with silver was not the most ludicrous idea for an attack technique. But actually painting their nails with

the deadly substance was a new technique most shunned because of the risk of harming allies or themselves with exposure. The thought a

Luna, of all wolves, would employ it so readily and harm pack members without a thought was unbelievable

"I see," Reed nodded. It would certainly give anyone, especially a Luna, motivation for a cure

"As you know my pack specializes in security," Jason said, "we now own the patent to this medicine but we lack the facilities and

infrastructure to manufacture and distribute it effectively."

Reed settled in his seat understanding Jason's meaning. Blue Moon

Chapter Forty-Three would never be able to manufacture enough medicine to benefit more than his own pack and maybe one or two

others, If the medicine was going to benefit the werewolf community as a whole Blue Moon would have to build the proper facilities...or

partner with a pack already possessing such facilities

Partnering with another pack meant less immediate profits for his own pack but ensured wider distribution of the medicine which would

mean greater profits overall. For this endeavor Jason selected Harvest Moon. Reed felt honored but that didn't mean he was ready to

commit just yet

"Just how difficult is this medicine to make?"

"It's too early to be giving you details about the process," Jason said. But I can tell you the ingredients: chamomile, sage, thyme, comfrey,

vervain and balsam. As I understand they are herbs easily cultivated as long as the conditions are right."

"They are," Reed nodded. "But some are rather difficult to use

Comfrey, for example, is poisonous if not managed properly. And vervain is not easily acquired since it's not widely cultivated. Its main use

is against vampires. Since the end of the werewolf-vampire wars no one has had much reason to grow it in great quantities."

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Jason nodded. Though he lacked knowledge in herbs this had already been discussed with Bridget and Phoebe. Aloud he said, "So I've

been told. Bridget mentioned the possibility of substituting vervain to make a vampire-friendly version."

"Nearly every poison has medical benefits if used in the right preparations," Reed agreed. "Even wolfsbane has medical uses as long as it is

used with caution. But removing vervain or substituting it would make it safer for vampires and give them the same benefits it gives us."

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There was still some animosity between werewolves and vampires so it was possible offering a healing balm would help establish friendly

relations with them. But in order to create it would mean further experimentation and trials that Reed's pack would be able to handle

"The balm was tested with the Fae as well, as I understand it," Jason glanced at Ansel

"Yes. That is correct. It was effective against silver wounds and to a lesser extent iron ones. As you know iron is quite deadly to the Fae."

Reed nodded. Just as with vampires there was the possibility of adjusting the formula to make it more effective for the Fae and other

creatures. There was a myriad of possibilities and Jason was astute enough to see it. Still it left questions about supply, in particular with the

#### herbs

Reed looked at Jason to see his eyes glazed and distant. He knew instantly the alpha was mindlinking someone

"How goes the negotiation?" I Phoebe's voice intruded and Jason willing turned his attention to her

"He is definitely intrigued. What about you?"

"The other lunas don't seem very impressed with my pool party idea. Oh, well."

Jason was ready to console her but she didn't seem concerned. Some lunas held their positions for decades so it wasn't any wonder most

wouldn't want to alter the status quo. Even so he wanted her to be accepted for no other reason than for her to have more friends and

acquaintances. But perhaps Phoebe was more comfortable with a smaller group

"Pool party huh? So what are you doing now?"

"Sitting in the pool chatting with Lucille, Norah and the daycare

wolves."

Chapter Forty-Three "Right—in the pool? What are you wearing?" "My bikini. Why?"

A growl slipped into Jason's mindlink before he could stop it. It was just like before. His mate was wearing practically nothing while his

warriors watched. Phoebe's laughter intruded distracting his thoughts. He relaxed

Even through a mindlink it was an intoxicating sound

"These are you handpicked warriors chosen to be my guard...and two of them are female."

Jason stifled a chuckle. That was right. Garrison's team had taken over their duties. Watching over Phoebe during the gathering and

ceremony was their first official assignment

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"So how are negotiations?"

"Good...although Reed has brought up a concern that it may be difficult to procure some of the herbs. Comfrey and vervain particularly."

"In that case you should introduce him to Alpha Atticus of Peace River."

"Who?" "His pack is small but they've been cultivating herbs. They

specialize in harder to grow and rare herbs. Their operation is small but they have room to expand with the right capitol and support."

"How do you know this?" "I'm talking to his Luna now."

Jason shook his head unable to stop his smile as he opened a new mindlink, "Luke."

"Yep."

"Do you know Alpha Atticus of Peace River?"

Chapter Forty-Three "Yeah. Hes still in the dining hall." "Invite him to my office." "Are you sure?" "Very."

Jason stood as he closed the link and went to his cabinet. Selecting scotch he brought several glasses to the table before pouring. Reed

watched him

"Prematurely celebrating?" the other alpha asked

"Not quite," Jason smirked as a knock at the door announced the arrival of their visitor. "Come in."

"Alpha Atticus," Luke announced letting in the nervous wolf

Atticus was on the shorter side for an alpha but had broad shoulders giving him the build of a line-backer. He had reddish-brown hair and

sported a full beard making him look like Grizzly Adams

"Please, come in and join us," Jason smiled. "Ansel, Reed, Alpha Atticus of Peace River. Atticus, Alpha Reed and Elder Ansel."

Reed raised an eyebrow at the alpha joined them. He wasn't sure what Jason's intentions were. Harvest Moon wasn't the only pack

specializing in medicine after all. Perhaps Jason meant for them to compete for the rights to make and distribute the balm

"Atticus, my Luna tells me your pack specializes in herbs," Jason said after they sat down again. "Does that include comfrey and vervain?"

"Y-yes. We currently have a field of each."

Jason glanced at Reed whose eyes suddenly lit up with understanding. If Peace River could guarantee a supply than manufacturing large

quantities of the medicine would be possible

"How large are those fields?" Reed asked. "How much can you

Chapter 44

# **Chapter Forty-Four**

Atticus was taken aback by their questions but answered truthfully. About a quarter acre, but we have plenty of room to expand. We've

been trying to get contracts from other packs for herbs before dedicating more land."

~ ~

Jason nodded sharing a look with Reed who also nodded. It would take time for any pack to adjust their fields to make space for herbs they

weren't already growing. Add to that the fact some herbs took two or three years to establish themselves it could be a very long wait. Just

as he was looking to save time by partnering with a medically specialized pack they could also partner with a pack specializing in rare

herbs to save even more time. Jason was far more astute than Reed gave him credit

take to expand production?" Jason questioned

"Make that two," Reed suddenly spoke. "My pack can certainly match that."

Atticus glanced from one alpha to the other. Never in a million years did he think he'd be this close to either let alone sitting in the middle

of a negotiation. His pack was only four hundred and compared to Blue Moon or Harvest Moon that was nothing

Jason could sense the other's uncertainty and knew he would have to give a proper explanation to secure his help, "My pack recently

received a patent for a new medicine, one that heals silver wounds."

Atticus sucked in a breath. Jason wasn't surprised by his reaction and

Chapter Forty-Four continued to his main point

"Blue Moon isn't specialized in medicine which is why I have brought Alpha Reed here for discussion. However, as he pointed out, some of

the herbs required are difficult to procure in large quantities."

Atticus's eye lit up as he finally realized why he had been asked to join this discussion. Finally he said, "You need comfrey and vervain."

Jason nodded

"With the kind of investment you are proposing we could easily expand the fields at least three-fold or more."

"And you can guarantee supply and quality?"

"Once the fields are established, yes."

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"And how much will it cost to expand even more?" Jason asked

Atticus hesitated. Spying the drinks on the table he snagged one and drank deeply to settle his nerves before he made his next proposal,

"We can offer a discount..in exchange for a share of profits."

Atticus held his breath as he waited for their reaction. Normally he never would have dared but as alpha it was his responsibility to ensure

his pack's future

Jason blinked. Atticus's boldness was surprising and welcome. The proposal was all he needed to know Atticus understood the value of his

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packs herbs and the value of the medicine. By sacrificing some immediate profits he was ensuring future financial gains for his pack. That

took foresight not to mention courage to speak so openly in front of two highranking alphas

"Interesting," Jason finally said. "We haven't really gotten around to profit shares yet. I was intending for my pack to retain the majority:

sixty-forty."

Chapter Forty-Four

"Funny you should say that," Reed said, "since my pack will be handling manufacturing, distribution and future development I was going to

propose sixty-forty in our favor."

The alphas shared a chuckle and Atticus relaxed. It seemed his proposal didn't offend either of them. What was more they were taking it

seriously. Enjoying a good natured laugh they settled in for a serious discussion. In truth Jason wasn't terribly concerned with his pack's

profit share as long as Bridget and Phoebe received fair compensation at the creators. Future generations of werewolves would learn that

the most revolutionary medicine in history was invented by a pair of remarkable she-wolves

For their part Reed and Atticus not only wanted to ensure their packs were properly compensated but also friendly terms for the future.

Close ties to Blue Moon could be hugely beneficial for both packs. Peace River was a small pack and the added security Blue Moon could

provide would help it grow quickly. The same was true for Harvest Moon. Though they had their own warriors the pack was largely

composed of intellectuals and scientists so Blue Moon could help them improve their security tenfold

Eventually settling on terms the alphas drafted a contract and signed the agreement under Ansel's watchful eye. Each would retain a copy

for their records. Once the agreement was made the trio headed to the meeting room arriving several minutes ahead of the other alphas

Jason sat at the head of the table. As the one who called the meeting as well as the host it was his right. Ansel sat to his right while Reed

and Atticus sat at his left still in deep discussion about herbs the latter's pack cultivated. As they chatted the other alphas slowly began filing

in

"Excuse me."

Atticus paused his conversation to see another alpha standing over

Chapter Forty-Four

him. If not for Jason's presence the other alpha would have certainly extended his aura as he attempted to hold command over the lower-

ranked alpha

"You are in my seat."

Atticus blinked looking to Reed, "Do we have assigned seats?"

"No. Everyone is free to sit where they please," Reed assured him

It was technically true. Alpha meetings were considered informal gatherings to trade information and work cooperatively. Aside from the

host who always sat at the head of the table there were no assigned seats

Every alpha was meant to be equal, theoretically. In actual practice there had been an unspoken tradition of higher-ranked alphas sitting

near the head of the table and lower-ranked alphas sitting at the other end, sometimes standing if there were not enough chairs. If not for

their earlier discussion Atticus would never have even considered sitting anywhere near Reed or Jason

The other alpha looked to Jason for support but the latter merely said, "Sit in any of the open chairs. I know we're all eager to get back to

our lunas so let's make this as brief as possible."

stifling a grow! the alpha snagged another chair. Since he had taken so much time accosting Atticus it was further down the table than he

was used to as others were already taken. Some of the lower-ranked alphas were embolden by Atticus standing up to other and took seats

closer than usual

Once they were all seated Jason stood, "Now, I know we've all been experiencing an increase in rogue attacks. Is there anything anyone

would like to add or suggest solutions?"

"I don't know what it's like further south," an alpha from Manitoba

said, "but in the north the attacks are much more vicious, especially during

Chapter Forty-Four the fall and winter when food is scarce."

"How is your pack situated?" Jason asked. "Casualties?"

"We're only three hundred. Weve lost five since last fall."

Jason nodded. Smaller packs always suffered more when it came to rogue attacks as they lacked the members to sufficiently repel them.

#### Aloud

he said, "I've already agreed to send a team to Peace River at Atticus's request. If you like I can organize another to send to you."

The alpha hesitated then said, "We would appreciate any aid you're willing to spare."

"Of course," Jason readily agreed. "I'll send a team back with you

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They can help assess the threat as well as improve security. When winter comes I'll send warriors based on their assessment to help manage

#### attacks

The other alphas murmured amongst themselves. Blue Moon's strength was well-known. It was not an exaggeration to say one Blue Moon

warrior was worth ten from another pack. But even more surprising was Jason's willingness to send out his warriors to help secure other

packs especially as he hadn't suggested compensation. Most alphas would only concern themselves with their own pack security and if they

did entertain the idea of assisting some form of financial compensation would be required but Jason seemed wholly unconcerned

"I know subduing rogue attacks can be more difficult for smaller packs," Jason continued. "That is why sharing information and cooperating

is so important. As some of you may know my pack as been doing a detailed study of rogues and their movements. We have determined

that rogues tend to set up a territory usually near the borders of a pack. We are still determining why but that means paying attention to

rogue sightings and monitoring their numbers is a good indicator at the danger level they

Chapter Forty-Four present to a pack

"I encourage everyone to meet with their neighbors regularly and organize patrols of their shared borders and share information with each

other. If you have any questions or need assistance don't hesitate to ask me. I'll happily organize a team to help assess your pack's security,

determine threat levels, train your warriors and of course help repel attacks."

He looked around the room gauging each alpha's reaction. Jason noted those who looked agitated or worried and reminded himself to

speak with them later. If they didn't want to speak in front of the group perhaps they would be more comfortable one on one

"And now..! would like to make an important announcement," Jason said. "I'm sure several of you have noticed Elder Ansel. My pack

recently applied for a patent on a new medicine and was approved. The medicine is specially formulated to treat and heal wounds inflicted

by silver

An audible gasp went through the collected alphas. They seemed to be in a state of shock and disbelief and looked to the elder who simply

nodded. It was all true

"Since my pack doesn't specialize in medicine we will be partnering with Alpha Reed and Harvest Moon as well as Alpha Atticus of Peace

River who will be providing the herbs and facilities to manufacture and distribute the medicine," Jason continued. "Harvest Moon, I assume

will be

running their own trials and making test batches to ensure quality. I encourage anyone interested to get with Alpha Reed to discuss price as

well as time frame for orders."

Reed nodded in agreement with everything Jason said. As the medicine was new to them his pack would have to experiment with making

large batches and ensure quality. Once they figured that out they

would be able to determine price as well as take orders from packs

The room suddenly erupted with questions. Everyone wanted to know how effective the medicine was, how it had been discovered and

when they could conceivably make orders. After millennia all were eager to overcome one of their greatest weaknesses. Jason allowed Elder

Ansel to answer most of the questions as the Council was the one in charge of the initial trials

While he remained silent Jason's mind was filled with thoughts. He knew the others were curious but a lot of the medicine would remain

secret to protect the patent as well as his contracts with the other alphas

However, there was one piece of information he would make absolutely clear: and that was its creators

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Chapter Forty-Five Chapter Forty-Five

"Um...May we join you?"

Phoebe looked up to see a trio of lunas cautiously approach while she spoke to Koko. She smiled warmly, "Of course."

Koko introduced the three lunas as she was well-acquainted with them. They all came from mid-ranking packs, "This is Luna Arin from

Tumbleweed Pack, Luna Kimi from Mountain Keep and Luna Sashi from Meridian."

Perhaps expected from lunas from smaller packs they were all on the shorter side, petite like Phoebe. Sashi was also rather plump and she

gave off a gentle, calm aura

The trio of lunas joined them in the water. They were nervous about meeting a Luna of such a large pack but seeing how easily Phoebe

accepted Koko's presence gave them courage to introduce themselves. The pup in Phoebe's arms soon found several more eager to cuddle

with him as he splashed

"\Fxcuse me."

Phoebe looked over her shoulder to see the young she-wolf from the dining hall along with two others. Judging by how they stuck together

they were clearly acquainted. All three were dressed in bikinis, one also wore a sarong. Phoebe wasn't much into trends but she would

consider them fashionable young she-wolves not that she was any expert on fashion

"Yes?" Phoebe prompted when they remained silent

"We were just wondering when it would be our turn," the first said

"Your turn? I'm not sure I understand," Phoebe said genuinely

Chapter Forty-Five confused. The pool was open to everyone though with the Luna Luncheon scheduled around it most of the rest of the

pack elected other distractions for the day with the exception of the daycare and her guards

"Well..when is everyone else going to leave?" the she-wolf glanced at the other young wolves splashing and having fun

"They'll be here for awhile," Phoebe said still confused. "Don't be shy

You're welcome to join them."

"But..they're unranked, the young she-wolf finally said

"That's right," another seconded, "in our packs unranked wolves are restricted to certain swim times."

"And if you decide to throw a pool party during that time they can't swim at all for the day," Phoebe surmised. She didn't need their

confirmation. "And do you think regulating them like that fosters loyalty and pack unity?"

The three she-wolves looked at each other in confusion

"Let me put it a different way," Phoebe sighed, "if a lower ranked member of your pack and you are alone in the woods and suddenly found

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yourselves attacked by rogues...do you think that pack member would stand and fight with you or would they run and save themselves?

Keep in mind this pack member may be one you have bullied and degraded because they were powerless to stop you. A pack member you

probably don't even know by name. Do you think they would do anything to protect you, their tormentor? Do you think pack bonds are

strong enough to save you when you have done nothing to strengthen them?"

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novelenglish.net and search the book title to read the entire book for free

The three she-wolves stared at her in shock. They had been raised as alpha daughters and taught the pack was subservient to them. It never

occurred to them that the pack would not support them whole-heartedly

## Chapter Forty-Five

"They would get in trouble for abandoning us," one said

"Maybe," Phoebe allowed, "but who would tell anyone the truth of what happened after you were gone. Besides, lower ranked wolves are

weaker and rarely trained. Would they really be punished?"

The young trio shared uncertain looks

"And what if your fated mate ends up being one of those unranked wolves you've looked down on all your life?" Phoebe asked. "It's not

unheard of, after all, I myself was unranked until Jason found me. It's not easy for alphas to find their fated mates, perhaps that's because

they are looking in the wrong place."

Again the trio gave each other tentative looks. They had always assumed they would find their fated mates among the ranked members of

the pack: alpha, beta, gamma, but.

"That's probably why so many alphas resort to taking chosen mates," Phoebe said. "It also explains why the birthrate among ranked pack

members has fallen."

"What do you mean?" one of the trio asked

"It's not secret. Fertility rates between chosen mates is far below that of fated ones. With a chosen mate you might only have one or two

pups while a fated mate you can easily double that. Which explains why all of you are only children."

"H-how did you know that!" one of the she-wolves stuttered

"Wolves recognize their own," Phoebe smiled

"You mean you're..."

"Yes. I'm an only child too. My parents were fated mates but they met much later in life since they were from different packs. But as far as

your

parents are concerned...they are most certainly chosen mates. In fact, I'm

Chapter Forty-Five certain at least one of them rejected their fated mate." Lucille suddenly snorted laughter drawing their attention. With a

smirk she explained, "Given I grew up with their parents I can confirm everything you just said." The trio of she-wolves stared at her in shock

"Oh, the stories I could tell you...but I don't think I will. So much more fun to let you wonder."

The trio shared worried looks. Their parents always told them how magical meeting their fated mate would be but now. Their parents

weren't fated mates at all. Even worse, one of them had rejected their fated mate, the one wolf they were meant to love and cherish. If that

was the case how could their parents know anything about fated mates?

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"H-how did you know that about our parents?" one finally asked Phoebe

"If you know what it to look for it's easy to tell chosen mates from fated ones," Phoebe said though she doubted their parents would even

think to explain it. "Fated mates find it difficult to be apart and when they sit next to each other they are always touching. They can't ignore

each other like chosen mates sometimes do. This would be even more obvious if one of the pair rejected their fated mate. Their wolf would

resent the chosen mate."

They wanted to argue that she was wrong but they could tell by her sincerity she was not. It might be the first time an adult was completely

honest with them. They could feel it. Their wolves, not yet awakened, stirred. Quietly thanking her they circled to the far end of the pool and

claimed some lounge chairs. Phoebe watched them for a moment before

turning her attention to her other guests

"How did you really know all of that?" Sashi asked. "Did you Lucille

Chapter Forty-Five tell you?"

Phoebe shook her head. There had been no need to consult her mother or sister-in-law. The truth was obvious but something else bothered

her though she hesitated to say it out loud. Rejections were supposedly rare but she had already met so many rejected wolves. It made her

wonder if the difficulty for alphas to find their fated mates was indeed punishment from the Moon Goddess for rejecting her gifts

"Punishment is not the Goddess's way," Mani said. 'However a mother always teaches her children lessons and some of those lessons are

harder than others."

"I have to say," Arin changed the subject after an awkward silence, "I thought you played and sang beautifully."

"And Arin should know," Kimi seconded. "She has a wonderful voice!"

"Perhaps we should play something together." Phoebe suggested

"Now that's an ideal" Lucille exclaimed. "Phoebe on the piano, Koko on the guitar and Arin for the vocals. All you need is a drummer and

you have a band. We'll call you the Lunas!"

They laughed lightly at her good-natured joke. The lunas were of course familiar with Lucille. Before Phoebe arrived she had been Blue

Moon's ranking female and often accompanied her brother when the presence of a she-wolf was required. At such meetings they never

approached her thinking she was standoffish. Now they realized her attitude was because she didn't want to deal with the other high-

ranking she-wolves

"Sounds like everyone is having fun," a deep voice interrupted

Phoebe stood immediately stepping out of the pool to greet the newcomer. A thick robe was quickly wrapped around her as his strong

arms

Chapter Forty-Five be

pulled her close. Jason breathed in her scent pleased to see she was enjoying herself. What he didn't like was the leering stares she received

from some of the alphas

Lobo was practically clawing his way out trying to get to their mate and reestablish their claim. Their mate was gorgeous. Jasons hands

rested on her hips pulling her close to him unconcerned with the fact she was still wet from the pool. Her scent filled his nose and he felt

immediately at ease

"I take it the meeting went well?" Phoebe chuckled

"Fine," Jason sighed. "We have a contract with Harvest Moon and Peace River."

He buried her nose in the nape of her neck near her mark and breathed deep smelling his scent mixed with her own. She was his. She would

always be his. Phoebe chuckled as he pulled her against him nibbling her ear

From across the pool three young she-wolves watched as the other alphas returned. Some, like Jason, immediately went to their lunas to

hug and kiss their mates in greeting. Others merely nodded if they acknowledged their mates at all. Just as Phoebe told them it was not

difficult to tell fated mates from chosen ones once you knew what to look for

"So the meeting with Reed went well."

"He'll be along shortly. He's still talking to Atticus."

"My Atticus?" Koko asked overhearing

Jason looked up smiling at the other luna, "That's right. Reed always makes it a point to visit packs he has contract with."

"Contracts?" Koko repeated

Chapter Forty-Five w

"Aside from the contract the three of us made Reed is interested in

other herbs your pack produces."

Koko struggled to keep a straight face. For years her pack struggled to make connections in order to sell their herbs. She never imagined

they would make a connection to the longest medically specialized pack on the continent. Kimi, Arin and Sashi congratulated her softly.

They were also from smaller packs so all rooted for each other as they struggled to stand among the larger packs

Before they could say more a feral voice thundered through the gathering, "WHERE IS HEI"

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Chapter Forty-Six

Jason growled turning to face the aura preceding the enraged alpha that stormed out of the packhouse. Phoebe studied the approaching

male certain she never saw him before. But if he wasn't an invited guest she wasn't certain what he was doing there. Trailing behind him

was a young she-wolf only a few years older than the trio she talked to previously

Phoebe's eyes shimmered silver as Mani came closer to study the pair

She and her wolf were in agreement though content to watch as their mate stepped forward to meet the aggressive alpha

"Alpha Jason! I demand an explanation!"

Jason eyes the other coolly. His gaze flickered from the alpha to the she-wolf then to his beta and gamma who trailed them. Luke and Ben

shook their heads signing they had no idea what it was all about either

Jason's gaze returned to the alpha daring enough to challenge him on his own territory

"How can I help you Alpha Rick?" Jason asked recognizing the other alpha from his security tour

"You dare ask me that after what you've done!" Rick demanded. "Or do you intend to deny it?"

"You'll have to be more specific," Jason said. "Just what are you accusing me of doing?"

"You're having a Luna Ceremony."

"Naturally, I found my fated mate. Why wouldn't I?"

"Found your fated..and you dare deny it wasn't my daughter?" Rick growled. "Are you really going to deny the pup she's carrying isn't

Chapter Forty-Six yours?"

The announcement caused a stir among the lunas who were staring at Phoebe with envious eyes moments ago. For years Jason had

shrugged off the advances of other she-wolves. Now he claimed to finally have found his mate but was that even the truth?

Jason growled his eyes swirling as Lobo pressed to the surface, "I never touched your daughter. 1 went to your pack for a security check and

cut my visit sort because you couldn't control your daughter after I repeated complained about her outlandish behavior."

"Y-you dare accuse my daughter of trying to seduce you?" Rick stuttered

"That's right. Disgusting, considering she's barely of age to sense her fated mate."

"Why y-you.."

"There is an easy way to settle this," Phoebe finally spoke stepping out from behind Jason

«, Phoebe," Jason whispered slightly panicked as she moved out of his protective shadow to stand between him and the alpha. Should the

other lose control she would be attacked first

"And who are you?" Rick demanded

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"Phoebe, I'm Luna of Blue Moon," she calmly answered. Her confidence caused the other visitors to take notice. Despite the rumors swirling

around her she didn't seem at all concerned or unsure of her place

"..Luna...of Blue Moon," Rick repeated

Phoebe smiled. Her luna aura had already engulfed their small group bring Jason comfort and as well as calming the other. Luna auras were

not

### Chapter Forty-Six bd

as potent as alphas. While an alpha aura was like a typhoon, luna auras were more like an incoming tide slowly engulfing the beach. Their

influence was often times more subtle but that also made it harder to fight or guard against

Only moments ago Jason and Rick had been ready to tear each other apart and now both were quiet. Phoebe's silver eyes flickered to the

young she-wolf hiding behind her father. Being young she lacked any defense against Phoebe's aura. The she-wolf was so relaxed she was

practically hypnotized. Phoebe didn't like to use her aura this way but it was the quickest way to settle the matter at hand

«As Twas saying. If we want the truth we only have to go to the source," Phoebe said causing everyone to look at the other she-wolf. "I'm

afraid. 1 don't know your name. What is it, if I may ask?"

"T-Tracy."

"It's very nice to meet you," Phoebe smiled. She could feel the pressure of everyone around her but she ignored them. "And you are with

pup?"

ves"

"How lovely. You must be excited."

yes"

"And the pup's father is your fated mate?"

yes"

"What is your mate's name?"

"Derek."

A collective gasp went through the onlookers as Phoebe withdrew her aura. Her eyes returned to their normal gray. As her influence waned

Tracy blinked as if coming out of a trance. Her gaze widened realizing what she

Chapter Forty-Six bed

had said in front of so many witnesses. She looked at her father as he grew bright red in embarrassment and anger

"Derek?" Rick growled. "Who is that?"

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"He's..He's...the gardener."

"A gardener!"

"My father was a gardener," Phoebe said her voice calm but with a warning edge to it. "And he treated my mother like a queen."

Rick opened his mouth but snapped it shut. Jason growled. Without Phoebe's influence he was quick to reassert his authority on his own

pack lands

"Considering how difficult it has become for alpha's to find their fated mates you should celebrate your daughter's fortune to have found

hers within your own pack," Phoebe added eyeing the rival alpha. "And you're very lucky to be having a pup so soon."

Before they were marked by their mate she-wolves' heat cycles were not nearly so potent and the chances of becoming pregnant

significantly lower. However, once marked their heat cycles were considerably more difficult to conceal. There was also no denying the truth

of Phoebe's words. Finding a fated mate should be a joyous event as should the birth of anew pup

"Luke, could you show Alpha Rick and Tracy to a room. It's very late and I think they could use some rest."

"Of course, Luna," the Beta nodded smiling at how easily she defused the situation

Still stunned and somewhat embarrassed the visitors followed him inside. Jason's arms snaked around Phoebe's waist pulling her close

Nuzzling her he kissed the nape of her neck. Lobo growled with pleasure

finally calming

Chapter Forty-Six "Phoebe...you're amazing."

"You better not forget that."

wae

Tracy crept down the hall. It had taken hours for her father to stop

raving and fall asleep. She planned it all so carefully. Since finding her mate she made regular nightly visits enjoying their time together. Her

mate might only be a gardener but in bed he was a beast and she was always satisfied. But she was an alpha's daughter. She was meant to

be Luna

There was no doubt in her mind she was meant to be with Jason, the most powerful alpha known for generations. Why else would he have

waited so long to take a mate if he wasn't waiting for her? Just who was that gray-eyed she-wolf anyway?

There was something uncanny about the she-wolf's shimmering silver

gaze. How had she known Tracy found her mate? Who was she? Was she really Jason's fated mate? She was so petite and..forgettable. Who

would want such an average looking mate? It had to be a mistake or a joke

Since their arrival Tracy had picked up a few rumors from the other guests. According to them Jason's mate had been rejected by her first

mate. That alone was enough to prove the she-wolf was wholly incapable of fulfilling her duties as Luna. What was more she was

supposedly wolfless. A wolfless female couldn't be Luna. And yet, Blue Moon said nothing about cancelling the moonlit run tomorrow night

after the Luna Ceremony. How was a wolfless luna supposed to lead such a run?

Part of her wanted to sit back and enjoy the show but she needed to make her move now. It was her last chance. Once she returned home

the truth would be known. She wouldn't be able to hide it. All she needed to do was convince Jason to be her mate then all would be

forgiven and forgotten. She would be the Luna of the most powerful pack in all the

. Pe

Chapter Forty-Six Northern Continent, perhaps the world. If Jason wanted to keep the other she-wolf as a mistress Tracy had no qualms.

After all, she would keep her mate around for the same purpose

Though it was large the Blue Moon packhouse was essentially arranged the same as any other. Tracy quickly made her way to the upper

floors but found herself stopped by security. Though patrols were common outside she hadn't expected any inside the packhouse but it

seemed Blue Moon's focus on security was no exaggeration. She had no way of knowing that security had been increased after another

already breeched etiquette the night before

"They are expecting me," Tracy tried to argue

But the guard didn't buy the excuse. She even tried to use her aura on him but he merely shrugged it off and she wasn't sure how he did it.

The warrior couldn't be more than a delta or at most a gamma and she was the daughter of an alpha. It shouldn't be possible for him to

ignore her orders

And yet he didn't move from his spot and sent her away

Frustrated she returned to the floor where her guest room was located and almost gave up. Then she had a new idea. There was more than

one way to the Alpha's floor. Heading down to the kitchen she stumbled down dark hallways before finding the object of her search: the

maid's freight elevator. Not even the main elevator offered a direct route to the alpha floor like this one

The elevator opened into a narrow, dark hallway. It would have been impossible for her make her way to the main part of the floor without

her wolf's enhanced vision but eventually she arrived at the suite of rooms in the heart of the packhouse. Her wolf whimpered begging to

go back to their mate but she shoved its protests aside. She had much bigger plans than a mere gardener could accommodate

Chapter Forty-Six be

Silently she pushed open the door and stepped into the room beyond

Tracy made her way to the bed where she could just make out a form sleeping in the center of the bed. She almost laughed out loud. Of

course Jason would be sleeping alone. There was no way he would allow that skinny she-wolf share his bed

Tracy eagerly slipped into bed beside her dream alpha. Scooting closer she pressed herself against him reaching around, her hands eager to

feel his muscled body. Instead she grasped a soft, malleable breast

«1 think you were expecting someone else," a gentle voice said

& ET. Watson a\*

Just a reminder Second Chance Luna will be going to PTR soon. Thanks for reading! \*

Chapter 47

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### Chapter Forty-Seven

Startled Tracy scooted backward and tumbled out of the bed to the floor. Her sudden surprise drew her wolf closer aiding her sight in the

dim room as Phoebe sat up clutching the comforter close to cover her nudity as she studied the she-wolf with a sigh. It was the second time

in as many days a female obsessed with her mate intruded in what was supposed to be their private sanctuary despite the increase in

security measures

"W-what are you doing here?" Tracy demanded

"This is my room," Phoebe answered. "Where else would I sleep? Shouldn't I be asking you that...although I think I already know the answer

Tracy moved to reply but snapped her mouth closed again. What could she say? Phoebe studied the she-wolf with a look of pity but such

behavior couldn't be tolerated

Her eyes shimmered silver as Mani woke from her slumber. As their spirits synced Phoebe's voice took a richer, huskier tone, "Do you have

any idea what you are doing to your Mate? He will feel every moment of your betrayal as pain rips through him, shattering his soul into a

million pieces

Is that what you want?"

"Nobody asked you," Tracy sneered feeling her face warm with embarrassment

"I wasn't talking to you," Phoebe gently admonished her voice still in its lower register. "You should know most Lunas won't be as

understanding as me. If you want to keep your Mate, pup, you'll have to be more assertive. You cannot hide in the dark anymore.

Understand? You are the daughter of an alpha. Act like it."

Chapter Forty-Seven

Phoebe's eyes flickered back to gray as the bathroom door opened

The sound of the toilet flushing echoed as Jason stepped out. His form briefly backlit from the soft glow of the bathroom's light. Tracy softly.

gasped as her gaze took in his hard, nude form. He was even more magnificent than she guessed

Jason yawned reaching the bed and was surprised to find Phoebe sitting up waiting for him. Sliding beside her his arms immediately

engulfed her as he buried his nose into the nape of her neck kissing her loudly

"Jason," Phoebe sighed her voice once again normal. "We have a visitor."

"What visitor?" Jason slowly pulled away before catching the smell of their intruder. His gaze fell on Tracy and he growled. "What are you

Follow on NovelEnglish.net doing here?"

Tracy shivered as his enraged aura washed over her. His eyes shimmered amber as his wolf pressed close. There was no sign of sympathy,

pity or desire for her

".. Jason," Phoebe said stroking his cheek and gently turning his attention back to her

He relaxed his aura withdrawing. Her scent was calm and all-consuming causing him to relax and his wolf to subside. She chuckled as his

embrace tightened

"Our guest was just leaving. Weren't you?"

"What are you..." Tracy's protest suddenly fell silent as her eyes shimmered. Her voice became nasally and in a higher pitch, "Yes Luna. I

understand."

Tracy turned walking toward the door. Her gait was awkward almost robotic or perhaps like a puppet on strings. But it was to be expected.

Wolf

Chapter Forty-Seven

spirits were not accustomed to their human form and moving it was not as instinctual as it was in wolf form but it was not impossible.

Reaching the door she opened it and continued on her way

Phoebe sighed opening a mindlink to the guard standing on the landing leading to their floor. No doubt he would be surprised but she

didn't want the young she-wolf harmed. She just wanted her escorted back to her room and watched to ensure she didn't wander again

"What..just happened?" Jason asked watching the she-wolf's retreat

"Just giving her some friendly advice: she-wolf to she-wolf." Phoebe shrugged

Jason looked at her confused and somewhat skeptical. Yet she didn't seem perturbed and she wasn't injured. He supposed he could let it

slide for the time being, "Have I told you today how amazing you are?"

"Well, since it is past midnight...no. First time today."

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"Then let me show you," he pulled her back down to the bed as his attention moved to the mark on her neck. Phoebe moaned with

pleasure letting him pull her back to bed

In truth she wasn't sure exactly what happened once Mani synced with her. She knew their aura had come rushing out but after that

everything seemed to happen in a fog. Whatever happened she felt a heaviness in her limbs and Mani's exhaustion seeped into her. They

were more than ready for their mate to take care of them the rest of the night

Tracy sat at one of the communal tables eating breakfast alongside her father. Most of the visitors were content to ignore them as Glacier

Peak was not a prominent pack and were not proper guests. But there were a

Chapter Forty-Seven sf few wanting to approach and glean more information about the previous day's events

Her father was embarrassed by the whole fiasco but Tracy calmly answered their inquiries. If any noticed her fingers occasionally had

difficulty holding her fork or that her voice changed to a different pitch or that her eyes swirled amber they didn't voice any concerns. Most

were more curious whether she intended to accuse Jason of other infidelities but Tracy only expressed her desire to return home to her

mate much to their disappointment

Mindless chatter ceased when Phoebe entered the dining hall with the orphan pair she called her own. Blake and Emma danced around her

perfectly happy and content as they made their way to the buffet-style breakfast spread. Phoebe chuckled as she loaded their plates

according to the pair's cravings. None seemed to notice, or at least pretended not to notice, their audience

Emma turned suddenly exclaiming, "Daddy!"

Jason entered the dining fall chatting with Luke about the border patrols unperturbed with the alphas and lunas watching his every move

They undoubtedly had several questions after the incident at the pool but as long as Phoebe was unconcerned and their bond undamaged

he didn't really care

Emma's sudden exclamation caught everyone's attention as she rushed toward Jason with her arms outstretched. He scooped her up

without hesitation. With a laugh he tossed her up and caught her before blowing raspberries against her cheek. Emma shrieked with giggles

wrapping her arms around him as he nuzzled her

Luke chuckled. After so many years of dealing with Jason's often reserved nature it was still strange to see him acting like a loving father

Chapter Forty-Seven Jason had always been fair but stern. Now he was far more easy-going and relaxed. Even if he didn't realize it this

change gave the pack even more confidence in him. With their Luna present the pack was more content and loyal than ever

Hearing his Beta's chuckle Jason shot him a just you wait look. Luke had been mated for the past few years yet they hadn't produced a pup

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Jason had a sneaking suspicion his friend had been deliberately postponing starting a family in difference to him knowing how much Jason

desired his own mate and family. But now he had his mate and two pups to call his own so there was no need for Luke to hold back. If he

was right then Blue Moon would see a dramatic increase in pups very soon

Without a word he carried the happy pup to a long communal table that had become the unofficial seating for Blue Moon's higher ranks.

There Phoebe was setting down the pups breakfasts. Setting Emma in her seat beside her brother Jason gave the pup a pat on the head

and roughed Blakes hair. The alphas and lunas watching couldn't deny the obvious: Jason was not only wrapped around his Luna's fingers

but their adopted pups as well

While Phoebe went to collect drinks Jason followed to load his own breakfast plate before joining the pups. Luke, Mona, Lucille, Ben and

Norah soon joined them quickly filling up the able chatting easily as Alpha Reed finally made his appearance and even chose to sit with

them. He was followed by Alpha Atticus and Luna Koko

This brought a fresh wave of murmurs from the others. Just like in meetings alphas from smaller packs never associated with those from

larger ones, maintaining their unspoken hierarchy. But Reed and Atticus spoke comfortably with one another as both shared knowledge in

herbs

Chapter Forty-Seven "Phoebe returned giving the pups glasses of juice. Before she could leave in search of her own breakfast Jason

clutched her hand and pulled her into his lap. She laughed at his shamelessness rewarding him with a kiss but when she tried to stand he

held her firm

"Jason," Phoebe gently admonished, "I have to get my breakfast." "It's right here," Jason nodded to the table

She looked to see a plate heaped with scrambled eggs, hashbrowns, sausage, bacon and toast. Looking at him she said, "That's yours."

"Pll get more so eat all you want," he nuzzled her

Since coming to Blue Moon Phoebe recovered most of her appetite and put on considerable weight but the portions she took for herself at

mealtimes were still far too small for his liking. Her naturally petite form still required more filling out. Jason and his wolf wouldn't be

satisfied until then

Lucille and the others chuckled but Phoebe found she wasn't the least bit embarrassed. No one ever showed her as much care as Jason.

Mani was in full agreement, basking in their mate's attention

Jason growled possessively as Phoebe snuggled in his arms. Though she downplayed her rejection he knew it had a more profound effect

on her than she let on. When they first met she had been wary and standoffish. It had been her way of protecting herself and her wolf. Even

SO

it hadn't taken long for her warm nature to emerge. Lobo reveled in every bit of affection she gave them in return. Her love was only for

them though they didn't mind sharing her with the pups.

Reaching for the plate Phoebe paused as a new couple entered the dining hall. She smiled broadly as they filled their plates before joining

them. William and Lily greeted those already at the table. Reed in particular was eager to see his sister who had not been seen since

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# Chapter Forty-Eight

"It's about time," Jason said. "I was beginning to think you'd stay in your room all weekend."

~ "It was tempting," William said without a trace of embarrassment

Lily on the other hand blushed. Jason was tempted to say more but Phoebe elbowed his shoulder to stop him adding a warning look. Jason

wisely held his peace. Sensing his mate's disquiet William grasped her hand and kissed it. The contact made Lily shiver with pleasure and

her face suddenly warmed in response to something William undoubtedly mindlinked

1e exchange

The alpha jerked around to stare at her. He briefly wondered if she somehow picked up on the silent communication but dismissed the idea

It was far more likely she was inferring the content from Lily's reaction

"Just because Lily's brother is an alpha doesn't mean she's prepared for one's libido. You have to let her have her moments to catch her

breath without constantly being reminded of it."

Reed who was drinking his coffee quietly watching his sister suddenly choked on his drink as the she-wolves at the table broke into

laughter. It was William's turn to blush deep red. Even if Phoebe couldn't hear another's mindlink her observational skills were second to

none

"Is that what you really think of me?" Jason asked when he was able to speak just as stunned at the rest

She turned her shimmering silver gaze to him asking, "Are you going

## Chapter Forty-Eight w

to tell me you've had anything else on your mind since you pulled me into your lap?"

The time Lucille nearly snorted out her drink as Jason struggled to maintain a neutral expression unwilling to join his friend in mutual

embarrassment. Phoebe had been so quiet and demur at their first meeting he wasn't prepared for her to be so frank and assertive. Yet it

was her mindlink that had him undone

"Should I tell them about the bulge I'm sitting on?"

Jason growled as his blush deepened unable to speak even as his pants became more uncomfortable. He was certain she had no idea how

turned on he was by her growing confidence

"There, you see Lily," Phoebe looked again to their guest. "That is how you put an alpha in his place. Don't let him intimidate you. His wolf

will always take your side so it's three against one and you will always have the advantage."

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"Now just a moment," William finally found his voice, "that's not true."

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novelenglish.net and search the book title to read the entire book for free

"Oh? Why don't you ask your wolf?" Phoebe challenged. "What does he think?"

William fell silent no doubt listening to his wolf respond. Jason turned his attention to his own wolf. Lobo's answer was immediate even

before he could pose the question, 'Mate can do anything she wants.'

Jason might have complained if Phoebe didn't suddenly begin running her hands through his hair. Her fingers traced circles along his scalp

sending ripples of shock and pleasure coursing through him. He couldn't argue with his wolf

"Well..we won't stand for mutiny, right Jason?" William announced no doubt having just received a similar message from his wolf

## Chapter Forty-Eight il

"Give it up, Will," Lucille chuckled when Jason didn't answer. "My brother is officially whipped."

Jason shot his sister a glare and growled but there was no rage behind it and it came out more like a purr. This only earned him more

#### chuckles

But he really wasn't all that upset as long as Phoebe sat in his lap, her scent surrounding him and her touch making his skin tingle

Before anyone could say more a sudden commotion at the entrance caused them to turn as a young alpha not more than twenty with a

she-wolf on either arm strutted in followed by his guard also accompanied by an equally voluptuous she-wolf. Phoebe eyed them coldly as

her eyes shimmered silver

None of the she-wolves were mated and as far as she could tell they were neither rejected nor had they rejected their fated mates. Like

many she-wolves their instincts attracted them to strong, powerful males. Only a few ended up like Camilla or Katrina so infatuated with

power they rejected their true mates. Most eventually settled with their fated mates once found. It was too soon to know whether these

three she-wolves were the former or the latter. Their clothing was very revealing, bordering on trashy, and inappropriate considering the

room was filled with alphas, lunas and pups

"Lily? What is it?" William asked sensing his mate's sudden fear. "What's wrong baby?"

"It's him..." she tried to stifle a sob

"Who?"

"Her first mate," Reed growled low. "What the hell is he doing here?"

"Guards say the alpha is from Big Sky pack," Luke said after mindlinking the wolves tasked with guarding the road. "I don't remember

Chapter Forty-Eight II

hearing any succession ceremonies happening so his father is probably still leading the pack. He probably sent his son to act as his proxy."

"If he's with a Montana pack it stands to reason the pack you sent him to couldn't stand him either," Jason said recalling Reed had sent

Lily's first mate to Texas in order to spare her

Lily trembled eliciting a growl from William as he wrapped an arm around her waist and pulled her close letting his scent, touch and

presence sooth and calm her. His wolf was raging ready to rend the alpha's escort to pieces

The young alpha and his group sauntered to a table parading in front of the others as they took their seats. Pounding the table the alpha

declared, "Bring us meat!"

His escort chuckled at the alpha's brazen declaration. As an omega passed he smacked the young she-wolf's ass saying, "Come see me

later, babe."

Shannon shuddered shuffling away. Jason growled intending to confront them but it was Phoebe who stood first. Calmly she walked toward

the group her gaze shimmering silver

Jason momentarily panicked and moved to stand but Lobo halted him with a whimper, 'Mate js...furious.'

His wolf cowered in the back of Jason's mind as he watched Phoebe reach the omega she-wolf. She hugged the other female whispering

comforting words before sending her to the kitchen. Once the she-wolf was a safe distance Phoebe turned her gaze on the males

"What? You want to be first honey?" the warrior asked with a leering gaze. "You're not much to look at but I'll be happy to make room for

you

A soft gasp traveled through the dining hall. Jason's aura was already

Chapter Forty-Eight —

rising with his rage at the disrespect shown to his Luna to say nothing of the solicitation. In contrast to the rage burning within him

Phoebe's anger was calm and cold though no less penetrating as her aura rolled over the group

"Twould have expected these she-wolves to have more self-respect," Phoebe glared at the scantily clad trio. Her nose wrinkled at the

unmistakable scent of s\*x explaining why the party was so late

"What's it to you?" the boldest of the three asked even as she shivered under Phoebe's scrutiny

"There are pups present and you don't belong here. Leave."

"Excuse me? What makes you..."

"Leave!" Phoebe snapped with a growl. "If you arent off this pack's land in five minutes you will be tossed in the prison."

",.But we drove here. How are we supposed to get home?"

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"I don't care," Phoebe answered. "You have two working legs, four if you shift. It's not like you have to worry about your clothes getting

ruined

Figure it out

The she-wolves hesitated looking at their escorts for support but both the alpha and warrior were silent, captivated by Phoebe's aura

"I said GO!" Phoebe's eyes flashed as her command filtered into her voice. Unable to fight it the she-wolves finally fell silent and obeyed

Phoebe didn't spare them another glance as she focused on the males

"Y-you better know some good tricks to make up for that," the warrior finally managed to break his trance

"silence!" Phoebe snapped her eyes practically glowing. Despite this bravado the warrior was rendered speechless. "Someone else will deal

with you so be patient and wait your turn. As for you..."

Chapter Forty-Eight ~

Phoebe's gaze turned on the young alpha. He shuddered not knowing why he feared her

"Name."

"L-Liam."

"Is this how you intend to run your pack?" Phoebe demanded. Showing up late to an official gathering, sauntering into a room filled with

alphas and lunas with a pack slut on either arm?"

She didn't care for the term herself, pack slut. Many males wolves were far more promiscuous and yet weren't given any derogatory

nicknames. Most went on to find their fated mates and would remain loyal to them. But she needed to shock him if she was going to have

the proper impact

"And what if your mate was here?" Phoebe asked. "She would have watched you walk in here with those she-wolves, smelling like them.

What do you think she would think about that? Should we ask? What about you Nina?"

Phoebe's gaze shifted to one of the young she-wolves she spoke to at the pool. The she-wolf sat with her friends uncomfortably close to

the scene that had just played out. Though they were a few years too young to sense their mates yet, no doubt it still left an impression on

them

"Nina, what do you think about what you just saw? What would you

think if this young alpha was your mate?" "I think it was disgusting! I wouldn't want him to touch me! Evert A ™

chosen mate would be better than him

"Well, that says it all," Phoebe's gaze returned to the young alpha. "I'd count myself fortunate if I were you."

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**Chapter Forty-Nine** 

The alpha blushed profusely. His parents were fated mates and expounded on the magic of the bond and the euphoria that would consume

him when he found his. In truth he was a little scared besides it couldn't feel all that different than it did with other she-wolves. But to think

~ he could ruin it before even truly experiencing it. That thought never occurred to him

"I suggest you spend the rest of the day thinking about that," Phoebe said, "you can present yourself to your hosts properly later."

She tured away to make her way back to her table when the warrior roused himself from his stupor, "Just who do you think you are, missy?

man, Luna of Blue Moon and today is my day. You would know that if you arrived

Jldn't worry about who I am...there is someone here who has a few words to share

you

Phoebe glanced over her shoulder drawing their attention to her table. At the head of it Jason sat quietly fuming. His eyes shimmered

amber and his alpha aura seeped out like a fog as his gaze bore holes into the pair. The young alpha shivered uncomfortably but his

escort's gaze fell on Lily watching him

"What are you doing here!" the warrior demanded

"She came with her brother," Phoebe said as if it should be obvious. \* And as fate would have it she was able to meet her second chance

mate...

who is very eager to speak with you."

а

**Chapter Forty-Nine** 

Her gaze slid to William who glared at the warrior ready to devour him. She certainly would blame him after all Lily suffered because of her

unapologetic first mate

"I know you are eager Alpha Will, but please save it for after breakfast ..and preferably outside where cleanup is far simpler," Phoebe said

"Of course," William agreed. "I'm sure Jason can schedule us some time on the training grounds. Right, Jace?"

"Sure," Jason said was all he could trust himself to say

As angry as he was for the disrespect the warrior showed Phoebe he knew William's anger ran even deeper. It was a rage he understood

completely. He still longed to sink his teeth into Alpha Graham for the pain he caused Phoebe. The urge to return to Rimrock and dispose of

the alpha was almost impossible to ignore. Knowing this Jason was content to let William handle the warrior's punishment

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Unconcerned with the male's plans Phoebe walked back to the table

She paused to place a comforting hand on Lily's shoulder. The she-wolf was hugging herself and slowly closing herself up despite her

mate's nearness. Phoebe learned close whispering encouraging words, "He can't hurt you anymore."

Lily blinked looking up at her

"Lucy and Norah planned a spa day..you should come," Phoebe smiled

"Vd like that."

Phoebe nodded continuing to Jason who still glared at the young alpha and warrior. He struggled to keep Lobo under control and wasn't

immediately aware of Phoebe even as she returned to his lap. Stroking he's cheek she turned his gaze to meet hers

"Everything all right?" she asked with a gentle smile her gaze back to

Chapter Forty-Nine its usual gray warmth

"Of course, anything for you," he said finally relaxing. His gaze returned its usual brown as Lobo finally subsided along with his overbearing

aura

"Good." Phoebe smiled planting a kiss on his lips that was all too brief and left him wanting more

Lobo stirred wanting more of their mate too

"Patience," Phoebe cooed through the mindlink giving him another kiss. "Let's eat breakfast before it gets cold."

"Ah! I needed this!" Lucille sighed sinking into the bubbling hot tub

Theirs was a private room. Originally Lucille, Norah, Mona and Bridget planned the day as a special treat to spend with Phoebe but inviting

Lily and Koko and the other lunas seemed a natural recourse after everything that happened. After massages they gathered together to

soak in their own private Jacuzzi

"And why is that?" Koko asked. "You seem to be living life stress free compared to everyone else."

"Well I..do things."

"Like causing trouble for the rest of us," Norah said. "How are you feeling Lily? Better?"

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"I'm fine," Lily said. "I appreciate your concern. I just... just feel so stupid that I feel like this even after finding Will"

"Don't," Phoebe shook her head. "Your bond with Will is still new. You haven't even visited your new pack yet."

Lily nodded considering this before she asked, "How did you manage

Chapter Forty-Nine to get over your rejection? You are so strong and confident."

"Am I" Phoebe asked. "I'm not always so sure. But my situation was different from yours. Your brother was alpha and sent your mate away

to spare you...My first mate was the alpha of my former pack. Even if I wanted to leave I couldn't without his permission unless I wanted to

turn rogue."

The others frowned considering her confession. Aside from Bridget they were all high-ranking members so took their freedom for granted

Only Phoebe and Bridget understood the restrictions placed on lower-ranking pack members

"Idid try to leave once," Phoebe sighed. "A friend wanted out of the pack too and sensed I was having a difficult time. He thought we

should both transfer. He even contacted another pack. Graham blocked it, of course. Dash decided to go rogue and make his way to the

other pack on his own. I couldn't leave Blake and Emma and I couldn't let the pups go rogue either."

"W-why would he block the transfer?" Lily asked

"It sounds strange, doesn't it? He didn't want we for his mate or Luna but also didn't want anyone else to have me," Phoebe shook her

head. "I had no choice but to stay and endure his presence and his chosen mate

You say it made me stronger but I think it just made me colder and more distant. You should ask Jason about our first meeting."

The others listened with pensive expressions. Only Bridget had been there as a witness so knew some of Phoebe's struggles. Jason forbade

anyone from asking Phoebe about her past wanting to spare her the pain of reliving it. However, if she was willing to share her experiences

freely then they were willing to listen

"Meeting your mate is supposed to be a magical moment," Phoebe

Ye

Chapter Forty-Nine said, "but I didn't feel anything: not joy, not relief. The first words I said to him were to ask if he was there to reject me

too. After one rejection I couldn't fathom anyone actually loving me. Luckily Jason's stubborn."

Norah and Lucille chuckled. It wasn't any wonder why Jason was so protective of Phoebe from the very beginning. Given how hard he

worked to earn her trust and break the walls she erected around her heart it was remarkable he even let her out of his sight

"Thad no idea it was like that for you," Norah shook her head. She couldn't help think of her own struggles. Her mate was never able to

break through her walls

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"I didn't know your first mate was an alpha too," Lily said

"Alpha Graham," Phoebe nodded with a twinge of regret. It always hurt to say his name

Mani lazily stirred with a half-hearted growl. It was less in anger and more out of disgust. With their new bond firmly in place the pain

caused by their first mate no longer had a hold of them but Phoebe couldn't help but feel its echoes

"Well, that is all in the past, for both of you," Norah said. "You both should look to the future now. You are Lunas. You are the heart of your

packs. Lily 'm sure your new pack will be as welcoming to you as Blue Moon was to Phoebe. Winter Moon has been waiting for their Luna

for quite some time."

"And enduring Camilla's ridiculousness," Lucille added earning an elbow from her mother before she realized her mistake

"Who?" Lily asked

The others hesitated not wanting to explain the situation. Lily's bond with William was still new and it was already clear she lacked

confidence

What if she thought William would keep his mistress because she wasn't

Chapter Forty-Nine good enough?

"Camilla is s member of the Winter Moon pack. She has been vying for Will's attention since he was not yet mated," Phoebe explained

much to the shock and horror of her sister and mother-in-law. She understood they wanted to spare Lily's feelings but this was information

the other she-wolf needed if she was truly to be William's Luna

"Oh..she's one of those," Lily sighed, disappointed. She should have known there would be complications. Was there nothing in her life that

could be simple?

Phoebe nodded. As much as she wanted to spare Lily there was no ignoring the facts. The worst thing they could do would be to lie or

cover it up. She understood William wouldn't want to talk about it but it was all the more reason they needed to

"Is she...is she pretty?" Lily hesitantly asked

"Some probably think so," Phoebe said. "Personally I find her piggish and shameless. She is no more a Luna than a houseplant. And a

houseplant has a better personality."

Norah and Lucille's mouths dropped at Phoebe's harsh critique. They certainly would argue with her assessment but neither expected it

from Phoebe. Her eyes flickered silver indicating her wolf had come forward but there was no indication it had taken over or that she had to

fight it back

Evidently this was an opinion Phoebe and her wolf shared

"W-what should I do if I see her?" Lily asked not sure she could handle an actual confrontation

"If she has any sense at all she won't come anywhere near you," Phoebe said, "if not, I suggest slapping her."

Norah and Lucille shared a startled look. Was this the same shy she-wolf their pack had welcomed just a few weeks ago? Phoebe's silver

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Chapter Fifty ba Chapter Fifty

"Jace!"

Jason paused turing as William hurried to catch up to him. Jason nodded to his friend. After breakfast he assumed William would

disappear with his mate again but Phoebe invited Lily to the spa day his mother and sister planned along with a handful of other lunas she

had become close to. Surprisingly Lily agreed. So now they were both on their own

Jason certainly couldn't blame his friend for wanting to spend every moment with his mate. When William showed up with Camilla Jason

had been worried about the path his friend was on. It was a slippery slope as his father attested to. He still had concerns but so far Camilla

hadn't made any trouble

"So..haven't seen you in a while," Jason smirked

William cleared his throat and had enough sense to be sheepish

Jason chuckled although he was one to talk. After finding Phoebe and bringing her home Luke practically had to beg him to get back to his

alpha duties

"So, I've been meaning to catch up with you about the alpha meeting, \* Jason said as they started walking again

"Ah yeah, about that silver cure you have, right?" William nodded

Jason raised a brow

"Lily mentioned it after talking to her brother," William shrugged

Jason nodded. That made sense. Lily was one of many experts in

Harvest Moon so it made sense Reed would consult with her

"It's pretty big news," William said, "did Phoebe really come up with it?

Chapter Fifty

"Her and her friend," Jason nodded with a smile. "They didn't even know the prospects of what they came up with. I dread to think what

would have happened if that i\*\*\*t alpha of theirs figured it out."

"You mean her first mate?"

Jason growled his eyes flashing amber

"Easy! Easy!" William held up his hands feeling Jason's aura rise. He had never feared his friend but he was now very much aware of how

dangerous he truly was

Jason breathed deep willing himself to be calm. Lobo whimpered with

longing. Norah and Lucille dragged Phoebe away almost as soon as breakfast was finished so they could begin their spa day free of male

drama. He wanted to protest preferring Phoebe to remain protected within the safety of the pack. However Phoebe smiled and gave him a

gentle kiss that had him ready to agree to anything. Jason was regretting it now as he was always calmer when she was near. His nerves

were fraying with so many other alphas present so he was headed to the training grounds to work some of it off. No doubt the other alphas

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were all thinking the same thing so it was going to be crowded but it was still a good idea

"Where are you headed?" William asked as if he couldn't guess by the direction of their path

"The training grounds."

"What a coincidence, me too," William smiled. "There's someone I have to mind to tear into."

Jason grinned knowing full well who William referred to. Lily managed

to calm him some before she joined the others for their spa day but now William was in the same boat as Jason. Without their lunas to

sooth them they were getting anxious. Jason had always prided himself on his

Chapter Fifty — self-control and patience but now it seemed nothing more than an act. Was he really allowing worry to cloud his judgment?

Why was he so

anxious?

Blue Moon's training grounds consisted of an outdoor arena as well as a gym complete with weight room and indoor running track. With

so many alphas around being able to work out aggression in a controlled atmosphere was imperative. Because of that the grounds

remained open throughout the day

Reaching them they found most had taken up space in the outdoor arena. Some were running laps in human or wolf form. Others including

a number of lunas were lounging on the bleachers watching and conversing

The majority however were sparring, testing themselves against the Blue Moon warriors. Though the visiting alphas and betas had the

advantage of rank the pack warriors had extensive training

Though Jason didn't announce himself the others immediately sensed him. The Blue Moon warriors bared their necks in submission waiting

for a nod before returning their activities. Jason acknowledged the other alphas with a nod as well. William; however, was preoccupied. He

scanned the crowd until his eyes settled on the object of his search

Jason trailed a step behind as he made his way to the seats where the newly arrived alpha was posing for some younger she-wolves no

doubt there to ogle the pack warriors. He was probably hoping to make a better impression from the one he started with at breakfast.

Standing beside him was his escort and bodyguard. Neither dared approach Jason after breakfast and they seemed oblivious to him now.

#### But this was William's show

William quickly closed the distance. Reaching the warrior he trapped him on the shoulder. The moment the other turned William hit him

with a

Chapter Fifty ~ right hook that sent him spinning before he collapsed on the ground

"Get up," William sneered. "Time we settled up, pup."

Grabbing the other by the collar William dragged him to the nearest sparring arena. The others quickly vacated it to join the onlookers. He

tossed the warrior into the arena before stepping in and quickly yanking off

his own shirt. The other alphas looked to Jason to see him watching with a rather amused expression. Some relaxed and others became

#### more nervous

"Hey wait," Liam moved to protest only to have Jason's hand settled on his shoulder

"ladvise you to sit this one out," Jason said. "It's between them." "I don't understand."

"I don't expect you to, pup," Jason said sounding remarkably calm

Lobo stopped pacing and was content to watch the match play out

"What is that supposed to mean? You can't let them fight. He's an alpha." "And he's a trained warrior." "But..why does he want to fight?"

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"An Alpha is very territorial about their Luna," Jason said. "They do not tolerate anyone coming between them."

«..lwould never come between you and your Luna," Liam said

Jason growled, "As if you could. But this isn't about my Luna. It's about his."

He looked to William who was stretching waiting for the other to pick himself up. The other was taking his time as if expecting someone to

intervene

"don't understand."

Chapter Fifty ~

"Your warrior rejected his fated mate," Jason said. "Will is her second chance mate and he's eager to settle the score."

"Wait..you mean..." Liam looked to William who was now ready and growing impatient

"Get up!" William snarled. "Stop stalling you coward."

"Getting a little serious, don't you think?" the warrior winced. "I never touched her. She's a twig."

Aroar erupted from William and silence fell over the arena. Everyone turned their attention to the pair. If they weren't already aware of the

match they were now

"Are you sure you want to do this?" the warrior asked finally getting to his feet only for William to drop him with a left cross

"Get up," William growled. "You better start taking this seriously if you expect to be breathing by the end."

"Okay then," the warrior huffed getting back to his feet

He tossed aside his shirt before they slowly started circling one another. The warrior stood almost a half foot taller but there was no

hesitation in the alpha. He was used to fighting against taller opponents and if they shifted that slim advantage would be lost as a wolf's size was largely determined by rank and aura

Everyone gathered as the pair squared off William going on the attack

His speed seemed to surprise his opponent as he rained punches like a prizefighter. William practically bounced on his heels connecting

with the other's jaw and sent him spinning. With a snarl the warrior lunged on the attack swinging wildly but managed to land a blow to

William's ribs. He hardly seemed aware of it countering with another jab to the other's jaw

This wasn't the first time someone underestimated William because

Chapter Fifty =

of his height. The first time Jason sparred with William he made the same mistake though their match ended in a draw. For every strike the

warrior managed William countered with two or three

His opponent staggered back after another trading of blows slowly coming to the realization that it was a losing fight. In desperation he

shifted into a rather large brown wolf. William snarled as if waiting for this moment and shifted into his mottled tan-gray wolf. A sharp

breath went though the observers immediately seeing the difference

William was a true Alpha. His wolf was just a bulky as his human form and easily as tall as other alphas. The warrior on the other hand was

on the smaller side. No doubt it was the result of rejecting his fated mate. At least that was Jason's conclusion as he eyed the pair slowly

circling each other

This time the warrior attacked first but William was just as quick in this form as his other. He twisted clear before whipping his head around

to sink his teeth in the other's shoulder. Shaking him William tossed the other to the ground. They heard a sharp snap but the warrior

clawed his way back onto his paws. William wasn't giving him a moment to rest pouncing on him again and tossing him like a rag

"Stop it! Make them stop!" Liam demanded even as Jason held him back. "Hes going to kill him!"

"Maybe," Jason agreed

"But you can't let him!"

"You would try commanding another Alpha?" Jason asked. "One that is protecting his Luna?"

"You can make them stop, right?" Liam asked looking to Jason then to Reed as he joined them

Reed glanced at him, "This is Blue Moon so Jason holds authority. But

Chapter Fifty = I'd just as soon let them continue."

"Why?" Liam scoffed

"Because the mate he rejected was my sister. If I did stop them it is only so! can have my crack at him."

Liam stared at him in disbelief before looking to Jason again. But he found no sympathy there either. A sharp cry made him jerk back to the

arena as his escort was tossed again rolling to a stop just inside the boundary of the area. It was no accident. Had the wolf been thrown out

the

match would be over but William was in no mood to allow that

He stalked closer to the prone form snarling. The warrior was slow to stir. He tried to rise but his left forelimb gave out under him and he

collapsed. Whimpering he looked to William for mercy but the alpha bared his teeth covered in the other's blood. William opened his

mouth eager for the kill. With a whine the warrior desperately offered his neck in submission and waited for the final blow

When the attack didn't come he dared open his eyes to see William standing over him teeth still bared. The warrior immediately averted his

gaze. William batted the warriors face with a paw before turning away. He walked with his tail held high. A Blue Moon warrior met him as

he shifted back offering a towel and pair of shorts

"W-why?" Liam stepped forward. "What was the point of that?"

"You'll understand, pup," William spared him a glance. "When you find your mate and her honor is on the line."

"Get him to the hospital," Jason ordered at the warrior managed to shift back. "Make sure he's fit to see the ceremony. Attendance is

mandatory."